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Zen Banx



March 19, 2015

HCR 172/HR 108 – Requesting the Department of Education to Establish
a Hawaii Public Schools Financial Literacy Task Force.

House Committees on Education and Higher Education

March 20, 2015, 2:00pm, Conference Room 309

Aloha e Honorable Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Hawaii Jump\$tart Coalition to request the
House Committees on Education and Higher Education to support HCR
172/HR 108 – Requesting the Department of Education to Establish a
Hawaii Public Schools Financial Literacy Task Force.

The Hawaii Jump\$tart Coalition is a nonprofit organization that consists of
20 member individuals and organizations across the state supporting and
delivering financial literacy to children from birth through college-age. In
2013 our Coalition members collectively trained 3,000 volunteers/teachers
and served 15,000 children with financial education through our various
programs.

Our membership **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HCR 172/HR 108 –
Requesting the Department of Education to Establish a Hawaii Public
Schools Financial Literacy Task Force as a vehicle for the Department of
Education, financial educators, and other key stakeholders to identify
areas of collaboration and partnership that will serve to increase the
financial life skills of our Hawaii children so they may raise families in
Hawaii, become active contributors to our local economy, and help build
strong, self-sufficient communities for generations to come.

Our Hawaii Jump\$tart Coalition stands ready to provide support and
partner with the Hawaii Department of Education to identify cost-effective,
efficient, and evidence-based approaches to integrating financial
education into the public school system. We see the task force as an
opportunity to create an “economic sustainability plan” for the State of
Hawaii – an opportunity that not only will serve to increase the financial life
skills of our children, but will serve as an investment in our children as our
most untapped resource for building and sustaining a strong local
economy. Please let us have the opportunity to come together for this
purpose.



Increase Financial Life Skills of Our Children

Research has shown that as little as 10 hours of personal financial education positively affects students spending and savings habits (*National Endowment for Financial Education, 1998*). More specifically, 86% of participants of a NEFE financial education project demonstrated an increase in financial knowledge or behavior when dealing with money after completing 10 hours of personal financial education.

While children often cite “parents” as their primary source of learning financial skills, we are faced with a reality that us as parents may not have even a basic understanding of how to manage our own finances. As a result, there is a growing marketplace of financial educators who are taking up the charge to provide financial education to our Hawaii children. However, for this work to have a long-term, systemic impacts on the financial life skills of our children.

Investing in Our Children to Strengthen Our Economy

According to Young Invincibles, a D.C.-based organization that focuses on educating and empowering young Americans on policy issues regarding higher education, health care and employment, Hawaii reports that 13.8% of our 16-24 years are out of school & work which “could depress economic opportunity for all Hawaii (residents) for years to come.” While our counterparts in the European Union have committed to investing an unprecedented \$8 billion to fight youth unemployment through innovative job/career training programs like Youth Guarantee, our nation has dedicated its resources toward a national education framework that promotes career- and college-readiness among our public school students as a plan to address our alarmingly high youth unemployment rate. This national approach was supported and furthered by President Obama's Council on Financial Capabilities, which in its final report released February 2013 ranked youth financial education as the nation's #1 priority for building long-term financial stability among our US families. The Council went on to highlight the need for youth financial education to be both “academic” and “hands on”, taking place in schools and communities through afterschool programs, youth-serving nonprofit organizations, and social service/housing providers.

According to the Hawaii Department of Education, Hawaii's high school dropout rate jumped 4.9% between 2000 & 2010 to 32.8%. This means nearly 1 in 3 of our high school students will not receive their high school diploma, and as a result, will earn, on average, \$9,245 less per year than those students who do graduate. Without a comprehensive approach to youth financial education that includes in-school financial education, we risk missing a critical opportunity to educate our children on how to become active contributors to our local economy.



For our local youth fortunate enough to graduate from high school and pursue college, they are faced with an economy that has limited career prospects, increasing tuition costs and student loan debt, and a high student loan default rate. According to the US Department of Education, the student loan debt rate that is growing at \$2,853/second, while the student loan default rate that has doubled since 2005 due to the widespread economic recession. As a result, an astounding 94% of student borrowers surveyed in 2012 were concerned about the debt burden they will face after college (College Savings Foundation). Both children who do not attend college and those who graduate with student loan debt are less likely to become homeowners, qualify for auto loans, start small businesses, and save for retirement, which are foundational to the economic recovery of our local communities (Consumer Financial Protection Bureau).

Conclusion

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HCR 172/HR 108 – Requesting the Department of Education to Establish a Hawaii Public Schools Financial Literacy Task Force.

Our Hawaii Jump\$Tart Coalition stands ready to provide support and partner with the Hawaii Department of Education to entertain cost-effective, efficient, and evidence-based approaches to integrating financial education into the public school system. We see the task force as an opportunity to create an “economic sustainability plan” for the State of Hawaii – an opportunity that not only will serve to increase the financial life skills of our children, but will serve as an investment in our children as our most untapped resource for building and sustaining a strong local economy.

Please feel free to contact me at 808.587.7653 or via email at jeff@hawaiiancommunity.net should have you any questions or need clarification.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Gilbreath".

Jeff Gilbreath
President

ouse Committee on Education – **Hearing on March 20, 2015 at 2:00 pm**

Representative Roy Takumi, Chair

Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair

HCR 172 / HR 108: Requesting the Department of Education to Establish a Hawaii Public Schools Financial Literacy Task Force

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno and members of the Committee, the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA) Hawaii is made up of life insurance agents throughout Hawaii, who primarily market life, annuities, long term care and disability income insurance products.

HCR 172 and HR 108 are requesting that the DOE establish a “financial literacy task force”.

We **support** the resolutions. Teaching students at an early age to develop financial management skills to navigate real world situations is beneficial to society as a whole.

NAIFA has local and state associations across our nation and was founded in 1890 as the National Association of Life Underwriters and changed its name in 1999 to better reflect the membership. Part of our purpose is to protect and promote the critical role of insurance in a sound financial plan and the essential role provided by our professional agents and advisors.

NAIFA has an ongoing partnership with the “Life Happens”, a non profit organization dedicated to helping Americans take personal financial responsibility through the ownership of life insurance and related products. Life Happens (www.lifehappens.org) does not endorse any product, company or insurance professional. Its only interest is seeing that consumers get the coverage they need to protect themselves and their loved ones by educating the public about important insurance planning topics.

Life Happens has a high school program called “Next Generation Financial Literacy Program” that has already reached more than 28 million students & more than 80,000 teachers nationwide since its launch in 2007. In 2013, Life Happens joined with Scholastic for its newest iteration of the program which is designed to provide high school teachers with tools to educate students about the importance of proper financial planning and risk management, as well as life, health and disability insurance. **The program is entirely web-based and free of charge at:** www.scholastic.com/nextgeneration.

Each module has a teacher's guide on how to teach the segment, corresponding student activities, videos, and interactive quizzes. Teachers can utilize the complete program of teach the modules as stand alone segments.

We ask for your favorable consideration by adopting these resolutions. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Cynthia Takenaka
Executive Director
Phone: 394-3451

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Friday, March 20, 2015 — 2:00 p.m. — Room 309

I Strongly Support HR 108, Relating to Education

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Brandon Lee and **I strongly support HR 108**, which creates a public schools financial literacy task force.

Money, and our ability to earn it and manage it, plays an overwhelming part of our daily lives. Furthermore, this challenge impacts people of all ages. Yet, financial literacy education is sporadic at best in Hawai'i's public school system.

In an economic system a generation ago, a person could expect to obtain a high school diploma to get a livable wage job, which included benefits such as a pension and medical coverage. Furthermore, Social Security was expected to cover and subsidize retirement costs and the cost of homes was more affordable to the average Hawai'i resident. Most importantly though, this meant that the average Hawai'i resident did not have to be as knowledgeable about finances to both be and feel financially secure.

In today's globalized economy, the government and businesses are cutting benefits including pensions and medical coverage. Furthermore, budgets in both the public and private sector are tight to remain economically competitive. This means workers will need to find ways to navigate their financial realities on their own. At the same time, financial instruments and programs have become increasingly complex and difficult to understand. In their lifetime, a young student will have to understand simple financial literacy topics like opening a savings account and using interest to their advantage to understanding long term care insurance and the value of a Roth IRA.

In the chart below "Financials Over a Lifetime," I've listed many of the financial considerations a young person will need to successfully navigate. In the end, there is little time and room for mistakes.

Financials Over a Lifetime

An estimated lifetime budget for a two parent household with two children:

Income

Your Salary (Age 25 to 67):	\$	45,000	x	42 years	= \$	1,890,000
Your Spouse's Salary (Age 25 to 67):	\$	45,000	x	42 years	= \$	1,890,000
Investment and Retirement Earnings:	\$	10,000	x	42 years	= \$	420,000
Social Security Earnings:	\$	3,500	x	240 months	= \$	840,000

Income Total: = **\$ 5,040,000**

Student Needs to Learn: Pay of Job Desired, Importance of Working, Financial Impact on Relationships, How to Open a Checking and Savings Account, How to Invest, What is Social Security, etc.

Expenses

Cost of Home:

20% Down Payment:	\$	675,000	x	20%	= \$	135,000
30 Year Mortgage (Interest Included):	\$	540,000	with 4% interest rate		= \$	940,000
Federal and State Taxes on Salary:		20%	of salaries		= \$	756,000
Utilities (Electricity, Water):						
Electricity:	\$	250	x	720 months	= \$	180,000
Water and Sewer:	\$	250	x	720 months	= \$	180,000
Cable and Internet:	\$	100	x	720 months	= \$	72,000

Food, Clothing, and Entertainment

Food:	\$	13,000	x	60 years	= \$	780,000
Clothing:	\$	4,000	x	60 years	= \$	240,000
Entertainment:	\$	6,000	x	60 years	= \$	360,000
Mobile Communications:	\$	150	x	720 months	= \$	108,000
Automobile Costs:	\$	20,000	x	10 cars	= \$	200,000
Education (K-12 or College):						
K-12:	\$	1,000	x	26 years (2 kids)	= \$	26,000
College:	\$	10,000	x	8 years (2 kids)	= \$	80,000
Wedding Costs:	\$	25,000	x	3 (yours and kids)	= \$	75,000
Travel Costs:	\$	4,500	x	20 times	= \$	90,000
Healthcare Costs:	\$	6,000	x	60 years	= \$	360,000
Insurance and Retirement Costs:	\$	11,000	x	40 years	= \$	440,000
Funeral Costs:	\$	7,000	x	2 people	= \$	14,000

Expenses Total: = **\$ 5,036,000**

Student Needs to Learn: Identifying Their Dream Expenditures, Cost of Housing, Understand Taxes, Understand Paying Their Bills, Importance of Becoming Financially Disciplined, What are Different Retirement Accounts, Different Health Care Options, Different Insurance Needs, Need for Wills and Trusts, etc.

Net Difference: = **\$ 4,000**

Student Needs to Learn: How to Create a Budget to Accomplish their Goals and Dreams

Takeaway Lesson: Financial literacy is a complex methodical skill, but can be taught. At the same time, individual plans are often required to ensure a young person's financial plan matches their goals and dreams. Furthermore, economic structures such as the loss of pensions, means young people are increasingly having to navigate their financial course on their own, but with little to no financial literacy training. Yet, there is also little time and room for mistakes.

A study conducted by Fidelity Investments found that 86% of millionaires are self-made and did not grow up wealthy. Financial literacy, while complex, is a methodical skill that can and needs to be taught in all Hawai'i public schools. This should be a goal for all education administrators and a public policy mandate as one of the greatest tools to prevent generational long-term poverty in some of our most dire communities.

At the same time, each student is an individual with his or her own dreams and aspirations. We know that not everyone in life is able to accomplish his or her dreams and it is often due to a lack of financial literacy. Currently, with few schools exposing Hawai'i's public school students to financial literacy training, our children are not adequately prepared to face the financial realities they will encounter when they enter into the real world. This will only make their lives more difficult.

As the world becomes more sophisticated and complex, it becomes more punishing for a young person to not immediately establish a path for financial self-sufficiency. For example, only some people understand the concept of compounding, and few understand how powerful it really is. In the chart below "The Power of Compounding", you diligently save and invest \$2,000 every year in your 20s and then stop. Meanwhile, a friend does not save in his/her 20s, but saves and invests \$2,000 every year from 30 to 60 years old. At the stock market's long-term growth rate of 8%, you would have more money than your friend when you both turn 60 while also putting in only 1/3rd of the amount of money. This demonstrates how extremely harmful it is for young people to be set out into the world without adequate financial training, only to potentially figure out financial literacy later in life after many years of trial and error.

The Power of Compounding

Compounding interest is powerful. Suppose you start right now, investing \$2,000 annually, tax-deferred, for 10 years. Now suppose your pal puts it off, investing \$2,000 in a similar account from year 10 through year 40. Assuming 8 percent interest a year for 40 years, look who comes out ahead.

Age	Years	YOU		YOUR PAL	
		Investment	Value	Investment	Value
21	1	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,160	\$ 0	\$ 0
22	2	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,493	\$ 0	\$ 0
23	3	\$ 2,000	\$ 7,012	\$ 0	\$ 0
24	4	\$ 2,000	\$ 9,733	\$ 0	\$ 0
25	5	\$ 2,000	\$ 12,672	\$ 0	\$ 0
26	6	\$ 2,000	\$ 15,846	\$ 0	\$ 0
27	7	\$ 2,000	\$ 19,273	\$ 0	\$ 0
28	8	\$ 2,000	\$ 22,975	\$ 0	\$ 0
29	9	\$ 2,000	\$ 26,973	\$ 0	\$ 0
30	10	\$ 2,000	\$ 31,291	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,160
31	11	\$ 0	\$ 33,794	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,493
32	12	\$ 0	\$ 36,498	\$ 2,000	\$ 7,012
33	13	\$ 0	\$ 39,418	\$ 2,000	\$ 9,733
34	14	\$ 0	\$ 42,571	\$ 2,000	\$ 12,672
35	15	\$ 0	\$ 45,977	\$ 2,000	\$ 15,846
36	16	\$ 0	\$ 49,655	\$ 2,000	\$ 19,273
37	17	\$ 0	\$ 53,627	\$ 2,000	\$ 22,975
38	18	\$ 0	\$ 57,917	\$ 2,000	\$ 26,973
39	19	\$ 0	\$ 62,551	\$ 2,000	\$ 31,291
40	20	\$ 0	\$ 67,555	\$ 2,000	\$ 35,954
41	21	\$ 0	\$ 72,959	\$ 2,000	\$ 40,991
42	22	\$ 0	\$ 78,796	\$ 2,000	\$ 46,430
43	23	\$ 0	\$ 85,100	\$ 2,000	\$ 52,304
44	24	\$ 0	\$ 91,908	\$ 2,000	\$ 58,649
45	25	\$ 0	\$ 99,260	\$ 2,000	\$ 65,500
46	26	\$ 0	\$ 107,201	\$ 2,000	\$ 72,900
47	27	\$ 0	\$ 115,777	\$ 2,000	\$ 80,893
48	28	\$ 0	\$ 125,039	\$ 2,000	\$ 89,524
49	29	\$ 0	\$ 135,042	\$ 2,000	\$ 98,846
50	30	\$ 0	\$ 145,846	\$ 2,000	\$ 108,914
51	31	\$ 0	\$ 157,514	\$ 2,000	\$ 119,787
52	32	\$ 0	\$ 170,115	\$ 2,000	\$ 131,530
53	33	\$ 0	\$ 183,724	\$ 2,000	\$ 144,212
54	34	\$ 0	\$ 198,422	\$ 2,000	\$ 157,909
55	35	\$ 0	\$ 214,295	\$ 2,000	\$ 172,702
56	36	\$ 0	\$ 231,439	\$ 2,000	\$ 188,678
57	37	\$ 0	\$ 249,954	\$ 2,000	\$ 205,932
58	38	\$ 0	\$ 269,951	\$ 2,000	\$ 224,566
59	39	\$ 0	\$ 291,547	\$ 2,000	\$ 244,692
60	40	\$ 0	\$ 314,870	\$ 2,000	\$ 266,427

\$ 48,443 Greater Savings by You in Year 40 (Age 60)

Takeaway Lesson: If you save and invest in your 20s and then did nothing else, you will have more money than your pal who did not save in their 20s and then every year saved and invested in their 30s, 40s, and 50s. Furthermore, you would have only put in a 1/3rd of the money as your pal. Therefore, it is imperative to get young people to become financial knowledgeable and disciplined from a young age.

Another example of how important your early financial path can be is the impact of interest rates. Everyone has a FICO score, which determines the interest rate you receive on a loan such as a mortgage. The FICO score is dependent upon how financially disciplined you are, including your historical financial track record. In the chart below “FICO Score and Interest Rates,” you and your friend are both 31 years old and want to buy a single family home on O’ahu, whose 2014 average price is \$675,000. You each were able to provide a 20% down payment of \$135,000, not including fees – you from diligently saving in your 20s and your friend through an inheritance. Due to your better financial discipline and better credit history, you are able to get a 30 year fixed rate mortgage at 3.5%. Meanwhile, your friend whose FICO score was not as high, obtains a 4.5% interest, which is only a 1% difference and does not sound like a lot.

But, after those 30 years, that 1% difference in interest rates means you friend pays ~\$114,000 more in total payments to the mortgage company. On a pre-tax salary basis, this is the equivalent of an average Hawai’i worker (who makes ~\$45,000 a year), having to work an additional 3.5 years to make up the difference.

These seemingly small differences in paths at a very young age, end up in monumental gaps in wealth by the time one gets to be of retirement age. Financial literacy is absolutely critical for Hawai’i’s young people to learn early so they can be in a better position to experience the life they hope and dream about.

FICO Score and Interest Rates

Your FICO score is an individual's personal rating used by most banks and loan institutions to determine a loan rate. Your FICO score is based on your payment history (longer = higher FICO score), amount of debt outstanding (less debt = higher FICO score), amount of credit history (longer = higher FICO score), types of credit used (more types = higher FICO score), and search for credit (less credit and loan applications = higher FICO score). Your FICO score is a representation of how trustworthy you are, financially speaking. To obtain a higher score, a person needs to time to demonstrate their financial trustworthiness. A higher credit score can provide a lower interest rate on loans such as mortgages, car loans, credit cards, and student loans. This is how a lower interest rate impacts the average person:

Let's say you and your pal (both 31 years old) each just signed up for a 30 year fixed interest rate mortgage for an average Oahu single family home (\$675,000 in 2014). You both managed to put a 20% down payment (\$135,000 not including fees). Therefore, each 30 year mortgage is \$540,000. Your higher FICO score meant you received a 3.5% interest rate. Meanwhile, your pal, who has a lower FICO score, received a 4.5% interest rate. Look who comes out ahead.

Age	Years	YOU			YOUR PAL		
		Principal Payment	Interest Payment	Total Paid Over Time	Principal Payment	Interest Payment	Total Paid Over Time
31	1	\$ 10,461	\$ 18,900	\$ 29,361	\$ 8,851	\$ 24,300	\$ 33,151
32	2	\$ 10,827	\$ 18,534	\$ 58,721	\$ 9,250	\$ 23,902	\$ 66,303
33	3	\$ 11,206	\$ 18,155	\$ 88,082	\$ 9,666	\$ 23,485	\$ 99,454
34	4	\$ 11,598	\$ 17,763	\$ 117,442	\$ 10,101	\$ 23,050	\$ 132,606
35	5	\$ 12,004	\$ 17,357	\$ 146,803	\$ 10,555	\$ 22,596	\$ 165,757
36	6	\$ 12,424	\$ 16,937	\$ 176,163	\$ 11,030	\$ 22,121	\$ 198,909
37	7	\$ 12,859	\$ 16,502	\$ 205,524	\$ 11,527	\$ 21,625	\$ 232,060
38	8	\$ 13,309	\$ 16,052	\$ 234,884	\$ 12,046	\$ 21,106	\$ 265,211
39	9	\$ 13,775	\$ 15,586	\$ 264,245	\$ 12,588	\$ 20,564	\$ 298,363
40	10	\$ 14,257	\$ 15,104	\$ 293,605	\$ 13,154	\$ 19,997	\$ 331,514
41	11	\$ 14,756	\$ 14,605	\$ 322,966	\$ 13,746	\$ 19,405	\$ 364,666
42	12	\$ 15,272	\$ 14,088	\$ 352,326	\$ 14,365	\$ 18,787	\$ 397,817
43	13	\$ 15,807	\$ 13,554	\$ 381,687	\$ 15,011	\$ 18,140	\$ 430,969
44	14	\$ 16,360	\$ 13,001	\$ 411,047	\$ 15,686	\$ 17,465	\$ 464,120
45	15	\$ 16,932	\$ 12,428	\$ 440,408	\$ 16,392	\$ 16,759	\$ 497,271
46	16	\$ 17,525	\$ 11,836	\$ 469,768	\$ 17,130	\$ 16,021	\$ 530,423
47	17	\$ 18,138	\$ 11,222	\$ 499,129	\$ 17,901	\$ 15,251	\$ 563,574
48	18	\$ 18,773	\$ 10,587	\$ 528,489	\$ 18,706	\$ 14,445	\$ 596,726
49	19	\$ 19,430	\$ 9,930	\$ 557,850	\$ 19,548	\$ 13,603	\$ 629,877
50	20	\$ 20,110	\$ 9,250	\$ 587,210	\$ 20,428	\$ 12,724	\$ 663,029
51	21	\$ 20,814	\$ 8,546	\$ 616,571	\$ 21,347	\$ 11,804	\$ 696,180
52	22	\$ 21,543	\$ 7,818	\$ 645,931	\$ 22,308	\$ 10,844	\$ 729,332
53	23	\$ 22,297	\$ 7,064	\$ 675,292	\$ 23,312	\$ 9,840	\$ 762,483
54	24	\$ 23,077	\$ 6,283	\$ 704,652	\$ 24,361	\$ 8,791	\$ 795,634
55	25	\$ 23,885	\$ 5,476	\$ 734,013	\$ 25,457	\$ 7,695	\$ 828,786
56	26	\$ 24,721	\$ 4,640	\$ 763,373	\$ 26,602	\$ 6,549	\$ 861,937
57	27	\$ 25,586	\$ 3,775	\$ 792,734	\$ 27,800	\$ 5,352	\$ 895,089
58	28	\$ 26,482	\$ 2,879	\$ 822,095	\$ 29,050	\$ 4,101	\$ 928,240
59	29	\$ 27,408	\$ 1,952	\$ 851,455	\$ 30,358	\$ 2,794	\$ 961,392
60	30	\$ 28,368	\$ 993	\$ 880,816	\$ 31,724	\$ 1,428	\$ 994,543

\$ 113,727 Greater Savings by You at end of Mortgage (Age 60)

Takeaway Lesson: Through financial discipline in your 20s, you can save lots of money, not only on mortgage debt but other forms of debt as well. In the example above, you saved ~\$114,000 more than your pal in post-tax earnings due to a 1% lower interest rate, which stemmed from financial literacy. \$114,000 in post tax money is about the equivalent about three to four years of an average worker's earnings in Hawaii. Therefore, it is imperative to get young people to become financial knowledgeable and disciplined from a young age.

These examples are just some of the challenges that young people will face and are likely to find trouble navigating. Sadly, in education, you don't know what you don't know until you learn what you don't know. Therefore, they will not be able to understand that one of the reasons for their financial difficulty is that the Hawai'i public school system did not create a systemic policy that teaches them financial literacy in every public school.

Policy makers often discuss the "brain drain" of our children having to leave their families, friends, and our state to start lives elsewhere. This permanently reshapes the very culture of who Hawai'i is.

I am 30 years old and I watch a lot of my peers stress over work so they can meet their basic needs and then stress with their remaining time because they worry about never getting ahead of their financial situation. It places great stress on their significant others, their families, their friends, and most importantly on their own self-esteem and self-worth.

I also believe the great recession of 2008 – 2011, changed the millennial generation. They understand how important money is to their success and began to save more judiciously. However, the next generations of students need to learn the financial literacy lessons that can help prepare them to make more informed decisions. It should not have to take an economic downturn for a generation to learn to be proactive about their financial future. It is no longer acceptable to avoid the taboo subject of money with our children.

With all of that said, adding curriculum to the public school system is a daunting challenge with numerous details to uncover. I believe this is a long-term process that first starts with getting experts and stakeholders to come together in a formal, serious, task force with the goal of making financial literacy education apart of the curriculum in every public school in the state.

In addition, part of the reason for a task force as a first step is to uncover what are the additional challenges, concerns, and funding levels required to implement a successful program. Through the task force bringing in many key stakeholders, the goal is also to obtain buy-in from many different and influential people and organizations. If successful, this initiative could require lots of time, financial resources, and a lot of compromise. However, if financial literacy is not implemented throughout the public schools, the status quo will remain and another generation of our children will desperately struggle to find answers to the financial challenges that await them in their future.

I urge this committee to pass this resolution and become champions for a long-term vision of providing our keiki with the financial literacy tools they will need to thrive within the public school education system.

Respectfully,

Brandon Lee

Email: bran1322@yahoo.com

HR108

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDN on Mar 20, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl Campagna	Individual	Support	No

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Friday, March 20, 2015 — 2:00 p.m. — Room 309

In support of HR 108, Relating to Education

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committee:

Having worked with Hawaii public school youth through non-profit supplementary programs, I can attest to the benefit a financial literacy program will provide, especially in Title I institutions.

I strongly support HR108 because financial literacy plays a major role in all of our lives. Learning essential money management skills is the first step to financial independence. Fiscal lessons will not only afford our keiki the tools to better handle their finances, but will provide them with the opportunity to pursue a broader depth of careers that would not otherwise be available.

I urge this committee to pass this resolution to help the next generations of Hawai'i residents.

Sincerely,

Emmanuel Zibakalam

HR108

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for EDN on Mar 20, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Gauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a alumni of Moanalua high school, the personal transition plan, implemented by the school's PTP coordinator, has somewhat helped me in managing my finances, such as writing a check, managing budget and expenses, knowing the difference between credit and debit cards, checking and savings accounts.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Friday, March 20, 2015 — 2:00 p.m. — Room 309

[Kelly Lee- Mother of 2 Elementary school children] Strongly Support HCR 172 / HR 108,
Requesting the Department of Education to Establish a Hawaii Public Schools Financial
Literacy Task Force

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kelly Lee,

I strongly support the establishment of a Hawaii Public Schools Financial Literacy Task Force. I attended a private school here on Oahu and went on to graduate from college with honors with a degree in Business Management. I thought since I was "well educated" I would be prepared for life beyond school. I was not financially prepared at all. I made all the mistakes many of us make. I did not know how to handle a check book, credit cards, taxes, saving 401K, personal loans, car loans, student loans-the list goes on and on.

In today's world, we no longer get an education and then go work for a company who will provide us with pensions, retirement accounts etc. We are on our own. Our children will most definitely be on their own to figure out how to navigate the financial decisions they will need to make on a daily basis. They may not even have Social Security by the time they are too old to work.

There is literally nothing more important than learning how to earn, save and manage money. We deal with finances and money every day-several times a day. I love history, math, science and all those things that we learn in school but, if I cannot figure out a way to feed my family, I have failed-no matter how many Cum Laude honors I receive.

This issue is too huge to ignore. I know we are far from getting financial education into the schools that so desperately need it but, we are completely failing our children, if we do not as parents and you as their advocates, do something to pave the way for a better understanding of the need for financial education.

I ask you, how many times did money come up in your life today?

I, Kelly Lee strongly support HCR 172 / HR 108

Respectfully,

Kelly Lee
Email: kellyreports@gmail.com